



# OLFEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## An Open Letter to the Public:

January 2018 is “School Board Recognition Month.” This is a perfect time to give thanks to all individuals who voluntarily choose to serve in what too often is a thankless position. School board members are in no way compensated for the efforts they make to create an environment that provides the best education possible for all students, while at the same time, doing its best to honor and reflect a community’s values. This January, I have decided to share with each of you a few of the numerous reasons why the Olfen ISD Board of Trustees deserves to be recognized and lauded.

Since 2015, the number of students that attend Olfen ISD has more than doubled. Also, the policies adopted by our school board more than *doubled* the total revenues received on an annual basis to educate our kids (yes, you read that correctly). We have “Met Standard” on state exams as a district for two consecutive years. In 2016 the School Board made state news when they voted to become the first district in Texas to implement a 4-Day school week. The 2017-18 school year saw Olfen add grades 9-12 for the first time in the District’s 100+ year history. In addition, our School Board has provided our students with the opportunity to earn a high school education while simultaneously earning a college “Associate’s Degree” at the district’s expense (yes, you also read this correctly).

Simply put, Inertia is the tendency for an object to do nothing or remain unchanged unless acted upon by an external force. While a school district is not the type of object we typically think of when remembering Newton’s Laws of Motion, momentum plays a tremendous role. Right now, the positive momentum at Olfen brings a smile to my face every day. I assumed the role of Superintendent in May of 2015, and I’m proud to have maintained the consistent support of all the original Board Members who believed in me then. Ms. Tracy Grimes (President), Ms. Joan Fuchs (Vice President), Ms. Kathy Halfmann (Secretary), Mr. J.B. Fuchs (Trustee), and Mr. Tobias Correa (Trustee)... from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support and for the sacrifices you’ve each made for our beloved community.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Gabriel Zamora*

**Gabriel Zamora, ISG  
Olfen ISD Superintendent**

**MUSTANGS**